

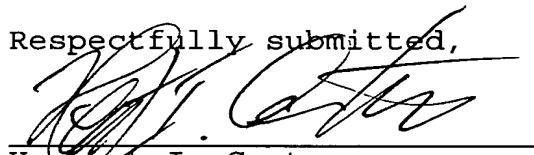
Serial No.

claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies thereof and to place the application in better form for U.S. practice.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Evenson, McKeown, Edwards & Lenahan, P.L.L.C., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3103/44139).

Respectfully submitted,



Herbert I. Cantor
Registration No. 24,392

February 26, 1998

EVENSON, McKEOWN, EDWARDS
& LENAHA, P.L.L.C.
1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
HIC/jaf